

AN ADDITION TO THE KNOWN LIST OF OHIO MAMMALS.

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During the fall of 1929 the Cleveland Museum of Natural History had two men collecting small mammals in different parts of Ohio for about a month in all. In the course of operations about Adams County one of them, Mr. Philip Moulthrop, took a single specimen of *Reithrodontomys humulis merriami* (Allen), the Merriam Harvest Mouse. The specimen is an adult male and was taken at Rome, Adams County, on November 17, 1929.

The specimen is not distinguishable from specimens taken in Kentucky. The capture of the species in Ohio is not surprising, since the animal has been known for some time from Kentucky, just across the Ohio River.

Gregor Mendel, Pioneer in Heredity.

An exceedingly interesting biography of the founder of the science of genetics has been written by Iltis, and now appears as the first biography of Mendel in English, having been translated by Eden and Cedar Paul, who did such a fine piece of work in translating "Human Inheritance," by Baur, Fischer and Lenz. The present volume gives us an intimate glimpse into the life and work of the now famous experimenter. We learn much of interest and much of a surprising nature. Mendel, we are told, was a man of varied scientific interests, having made investigations not only in biology, but in meteorology and geology. In his biological researches, he hybridized mice, but was constrained to cease such activities, as being immoral in a priest. He conducted crossing experiments with bees. In the botanical world, where his chief interest lay, he used not only the peas which have made him famous, but columbines, snapdragons, slipperworts, sedge, pumpkins, hawkweed, vetch, four-o'clocks, beans, cinquefoil, mullein, violets, maize, and others.

Of especial interest is the fact that Mendel himself formulated the hypothesis of the interaction of factors resulting in epistasis. In his monograph on the hybridization of beans are contained not only the fundamental laws which are usually associated with his name, but also the elements out of which almost all of the later extensions and elaborations of the Mendelian doctrine have been made.

Mendel entered the priesthood for economic reasons and for leisure for experimental work. We learn that while at first he had leisure for his work, he was cramped for space. Later, when elected prelate, all the space he desired was at his disposal, but his duties robbed him of the time he needed. Still later, when both space and time were available, he records that he was handicapped by an excess of avoirdupois, having become too fat to make the long walks and hill-climbing so necessary in the collection of material. As many as twenty cigars a day were smoked in an effort to overcome the increasing weight.

The rediscovery of Mendel's work and the trend of scientific thought at the time are interestingly outlined in the later chapters.

The book is fine reading, and is authoritatively written. It should be in the library of every college and university, and on the personal shelf of every biologist.—L. H. S.

The Life of Mendel, by Hugo Iltis, Translated by Eden and Cedar Paul. 336 pp., 10 ill., 12 plates. New York, W. W. Norton & Co. \$5.00.